

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

EB-07 /057 W

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R 291559Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7682

INFO USMISION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (BAAH, KWAME, COMMISSIONER FOREIGN AFFAIRS), PFOR,
EAIR, GH

SUBJECT: MFA PROTESTS HANDLING OF COMMISSIONER BAAH AT JFK

1.DIRECTOR EUROPE AND AMERICAS LAMPTEY SUMMONED POLITICAL
CONSELOR MAY 29 TO REGISTER PROTEST AT TREATMENT OF COMMISSIONER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS KWAME BAAH AT KENNEDY AIRPORT MAY 7. LAMPTEY SAID HE
HAD PERSUADEC COMMISSIONER AND SENIOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO USE
ORAL PRESENTATION IN LIEU OF THEIR PROPOSED PROCEDURE OF CALLING
CHARGE AND PRESENTING FORMAL PROTEST NOTE.

2. EVENTS DESCRIBED BY MAMPTEY AS FOLLOWS: BAAH, UN PERMREP BOATEN,
HICOMMER TO UK SEKYI, LAMPTEY AND OTHERS WERE RETURNING FROM
KINGSTON COMMONWEALTH MEETING VIA PAN AM, INTENDING TO SPEND SOME
TIME IN NEW YORK, BEFORE DEPARTING FOR LONDON (LESS BOATEN)
VIA TWA. PAN AM, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS OFFICIAL S DID NOT
OFFER AND, IN FACT, DENIED SPECIAL COURTESIES EXPECTED BY
GHANAIAANS. BAAH AND OTHERS WERE MET BY MEMBERS GHANA UN MISSION
WHO ASKED PERMISSION TO MEET COMMISSIONER AND ESCORT HIM
THROUGH FORMALITIES. THIS WAS DENIED AND BAAH "STOOD
IN LINE HIMSELF" TO HAVE PASSPORT INSPECTED AND, NOT NOTICING
SIGN LIMITING ENTRANCE TO BOOTH, ENTERED BOOTH WHILE ANOTHER
PASSENGER WAS PRESENT, AND WAS "RUDELY ORDERED OUT" WITH
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"CAN'T YOU READ?".

3. AN ASPECT WHICH IS ALSO IMPORTANT HERE IS THAT BAAH HOLDS PAN AM VERY LARGELY AT FAULT AND, TO LAMPTEY, CONTRASTED EXCELLENT SERVICE HE SAID HE RECEIVES FROM TWA (APPARENTLY ON DEPARTURE TWA PROVIDED AMBASSADOR CLUB AND EVEN GOLF CART RIDE TO PLANE SIDE). IN VIEW OF PRESENT PAN AM PROBLEMS IN GHANA THIS IS ANOTHER ANNOYANCE OF GHANAIS.

4. LAMPTEY VOLUNTEERED THAT PERHAPS GHANA EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND/OR UN MISSION HAD NOT INFORMED DEPARTMENT OR USUN OF IMPENDING ARRIVAL AND WAS AWARE THAT IN EARLIER OCCASIONS WHEN BAAH FELT SLIGHTED THIS HAD BEEN CASE. HE SAID THAT NONETHELESS BAAH FELT "INJURED" AND THAT AIRLINE AND USG OFFICIALS COULD HAVE MADE AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS.

5. MFA HAS ASKED FOR RESPONSE. IN ADDITION TO REMINDING THEM ONCE AGAIN THAT NOTICE OF VIP ARRIVAL WOULD HELP SMOOTH ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS DEPARTMENT OR USUN WISH US TO CONVEY.

6. COMMENT: GHANAIS ARE NOTABLY SENSITIVE ON PROTOCOL MATTERS AND BAAH STANDS IN FRONT RANK OF THOSE EASILY SLIGHTED. WE HAVE REPORTED OTHER INSTANCES. IN SEPTEL WE WILL REPORT A SECOND CASE (WESTERN REGIONAL COMMISSIONER KYEREMAH) BROUGHT UP BY LAMPTEY THIS MORNING.
HANSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ACCRA03366
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750188-0577
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975057/aaaaafug.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MFA PROTESTS HANDLING OF COMMISSIONER BAAH AT JFK
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, GH, (BAAH, KWAME)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006